

San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

September 5, 2024

Members Present: N. Corzo (left at 6:34 pm), A. Fung (arrived at 5:07 pm), J. Mates (Vice
(In Person) Chair), R. Mueller (left at 5:49 pm), C. Romero (Chair)

Members Present: R. Medina (left at 6:10 pm), M. Nagales (left at 6:55 pm)
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, D. Santoro, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, P. Gilster, J. Manzi,
Sue-Ellen Atkinson, A. Linehan, K. Jordan Steiner, D. Covarrubias, K. Beltz,
J. Epstein, J. Brook, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

Chair Carlos Romero called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

The Board voted to approve Director Mark Nagales's request to participate via teleconference per Assembly Bill 2449 due to illness.

Motion/Second: Romero/Mates

Ayes: Corzo, Mates, Medina, Mueller, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Fung

2. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Margaret Tseng, Acting Authority Secretary, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Romero requested that Vice Chair Julia Mates lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Anders Fung arrived at 5:07 pm.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Jennifer Garstang thanked Chair Romero for raising awareness on induced demand and calling for a focus on reducing vehicle miles traveled. She expressed concerns over the planned 101 Managed Lanes Project North of I-380.

4. Report of the Community Advisory Committee

Chair Romero noted that the report was posted on the website.

5. Consent Calendar

- 5.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 1, 2024**
- 5.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending July 31, 2024**
- 5.c. Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2024**
- 5.d. Programming and Allocating \$250,000 in New Measure A Funds for the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) for the Countywide Transportation Plan – *Approved by Resolution No. 2024-18***

Motion/Second: Mueller/Nagales

Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Mates, Medina, Mueller, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero said he had ridden on a new Caltrain electric train recently and it was much quieter than the diesel trains.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

7.a. Meeting of August 7, 2024

7.b. Meeting of September 4, 2024

Director Rico Medina noted the most recent performance report from Ana Rivas, Director, Bus Transportation.

8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Director Medina noted a tree policy was approved at that morning's JPB meeting, which includes assisting homeowners and others to remove trees where necessary for safety reasons.

9. Report of the Executive Director

April Chan, Executive Director, said the report was in the packet and noted the following:

- Caltrain soft launch on August 10.
- Broadway Burlingame grade separation project – received an updated cost estimate. Working with Caltrain and the City of Burlingame to possibly redesign the project to bring the costs down. It is the number-one grade separation in the state
- Regional transportation measure alternatives, including a 25-year measure with 30 percent for transit, funding for Caltrain and BART and for paratransit program. They are looking at a four-county measure (SF, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo).

Chair Romero asked if there was any discussion about when they would go to the public with the reauthorization bid for Measure A. Ms. Chan said they were thinking of 2028.

10. Program

10.a. Regional Transit Connections Plan Public Review Draft

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, provided the presentation.

Chair Romero asked what VTA's (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) involvement was in Palo Alto. Mr. Gilster said a partnership with VTA is in the capital improvement program as a potential project. Chair Romero asked if simplified Chinese was used as part of the outreach efforts to Asian survey participants. Director Anders Fung recommended standardizing communication and using traditional Chinese. Mr. Gilster said he would discuss which languages are translated in materials with the Office of Civil Rights staff.

Vice Chair Mates asked for a breakdown of where the improvement would be in the First/Last Mile category. Mr. Gilster said it can be any type of bike or pedestrian connection to the station itself.

Director Noelia Corzo asked for clarification that the percentages were not set by Measure W. Mr. Gilster said just 10 percent of sales tax revenue is dedicated to regional transit connections, which the TA has broken down into subcategories

Director Ray Mueller left the meeting at 5:49 pm.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski suggested that projects should be evaluated for their "bang for the buck," in addition to being placed in categories.

Chair Romero asked if it were possible to increase the funding split targets beyond the 10 percent for the first/last mile sub-category. Mr. Gilster said it might be possible to increase that amount. He said the first/last mile projects are going to be much less expensive than the capital projects, so they could get more bang for their buck by increasing the first/last mile sub-category. Vice Chair Mates concurred, saying that connectivity was a key issue for public transit users.

Director Rico Medina left the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Director Mark Nagales said he concurred with the other directors regarding putting more emphasis on first/last mile projects.

11. Finance

11.a. US 101 Express Lanes: Semiannual Update on Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lanes Performance

Kevin Beltz, Manager, Treasury Debt and Investments, provided the initial part of the presentation on the variable rate bonds.

Chair Romero asked about reason for the \$4.5 million jump in debt service in Fiscal Year 2024. Mr. Beltz said the way it was set up at the issuances, there were no principal payments made in 2028, 2029, 2031, or 2032. He said they are setting aside money to fund the buckets of reserves.

Lacy Vong, Policy Program Manager, San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA), provided the presentation on the Express Lanes Operations, which included highlights on quarterly performance.

Director Noelia Corzo left the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Vice Chair Mates asked why the updated community benefit of \$200 would not be available until Spring 2025. Ms. Vong said they need to do an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the vendor to do the proposed mobility debit card.

Chair Romero said eventually they will need to address the paying down the bonds earlier. Ms. Chan said the TA needs to set aside reserves to maintain their assets, which the JPA will need to review.

Public Comment:

Giuliano Carlini said he was interested in obtaining more data and asked if the TA needed to first make a request to the JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority).

Chris Florkowski said she was concerned that they were not tracking VMT (vehicle miles traveled).

Director Nagales asked if there has been an increase in online applications. Ms. Vong said online was not yet available and that it was planned for the next generation launching in Spring 2025.

12. State and Federal Legislative Update

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of federal legislation.

On the federal side, she said Congress and Senate will likely do a continuing resolution to keep the government open. She said the outcome of the election will have a significant impact on the budget.

On the state side, she noted the Governor is calling senators to a special session on gas prices.

Ms. Epstein provided a presentation on the regional transit measure alternatives.

Director Mark Nagales left the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Chair Romero said we must figure out how to fund transportation projects and San Mateo County cannot fund them on its own. Ms. Epstein said they are in conversation with other transit agencies, including Caltrain. She said neither of the two proposed regional measures meet all the competing needs of the various agencies.

Vice Chair Mates requested that the Board have a study session on the regional transit measure.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski said it appears that the 10 percent is going to MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) for a transit transformation, which is kind of a black box.

13. Requests from the Authority

Chair Romero requested information on how much of the TA's money is locked into projects and allocated.

14. Written Communications to the Authority

Chair Romero noted that the correspondence was available on the website.

15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Romero announced the next meeting would be on Thursday, October 10, 2024, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

16. Report of Legal Counsel

16.a. Closed Session: Conference with Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Properties: (1) 50-foot-wide Property Located Directly West of the Caltrain Corridor from 20th Avenue to Approximately 1,000 Feet Past 25th Avenue, City of San Mateo (Portion of APN 035-320-999) and (2) 2777 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403

Negotiators: April Chan and Joan Cassman

Negotiating Parties: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the City of San Mateo

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, said that due to not having a quorum, the closed session would be postponed to the October meeting.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.smcta.com/video-board-directors>. Questions may be referred to the Authority Secretary's office by phone at 650-551-6108 or by email to board@smcta.com.